AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn): A system for automatically configuring I/O devices, comprising:

means for determining physical locations of the I/O devices with respect to one another; and

means for assigning node addresses to each I/O device, each assigned node address corresponding to the physical location of the respective I/O devices.

2. (Withdrawn): A system for automatically configuring I/O devices, comprising:

a plurality of I/O devices operatively coupled to each other;

a sub-system for determining physical locations of the I/O devices with respect to one another, the sub-system assigning node addresses to each I/O device – each assigned node address corresponding to the physical location of the respective I/O devices.

3. (Withdrawn): A method for automatically configuring I/O devices, comprising the steps of:

determining physical locations of the I/O devices with respect to one another; and

assigning node addresses to each I/O device, each assigned node address corresponding to the physical location of the respective I/O devices.

4. (Currently Amended): An adaptable control system for providing network communications, comprising:

a physical media for providing communications to at least one I/O module, the physical media includes a first protocol and a second protocol, the first protocol to enable the at least one I/O module to receive the network communications and the second protocol to provide the network communications to the at least one enabled I/O module; and

the at least one I/O module enables at least one other I/O module to form an I/O group *via* the first protocol; and

an interface for providing a pass-thru for the network communications, the interface provides a DC/DC converter for supplying I/O power and enabling the at least one other I/O module.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, the second protocol provides at least one of DeviceNet, EtherNet and ControlNet network communications.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, further comprising an adapter for establishing network communications.

10. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 9, the adapter includes at least one processor for enabling the at least one I/O module.

11. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 9, the adapter includes an Offlink Connection Manager (OCM) object, a node list, and an I/O data table.

12. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, the at least one I/O module includes a processor for receiving the first protocol as an input and providing the first protocol as an output.

13. (Withdrawn): A method for providing an adaptable control system, comprising the steps of:

       receiving network communications *via* an interface;

       sequentially enabling at least one I/O module to receive the network communications from the interface; and

       enabling at least one other I/O module to form an I/O group.

14. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

       using a PointBus input to enable a PointBus output to initiate a network connection.

15. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

       waiting for the PointBus input;

       determining a network address for the at least one I/O module; and

       enabling the at least one other I/O module to receive a network address after determining the network address for the at least one I/O module.

16. (Withdrawn): An adaptable control system, comprising:

       means for receiving network communications;

       means for sequentially enabling at least one I/O module to receive the network communications; and

       means for enabling at least one other I/O module to receive a network address after determining the network address for the at least one I/O module.

17. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 16 further comprising: means for using a PointBus input to enable a PointBus output to initiate a network connection.

18. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, the at least one other I/O module being added sequentially to the I/O group utilizing output from the at least one I/O module.

19. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, the at least one I/O module and the at least one other I/O module being automatically configured.

20. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 4, further comprising a sub-system that determines respective physical locations of the at least one I/O module and the at least one other I/O module.

21. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 20, the sub-system assigns node addresses to the at least one I/O module and the at least one other I/O module, the node addresses correspond to the respective physical locations.